

The Brighter Tomorrow

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Text: V-25 — "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things?"

The picture we get on Easter in the life of Christ is quite different from that of the previous week. Last Sunday was Palm Sunday, and you recall the crowd that followed Christ cheering and praising Him. The story starts in Bethany with His close friends, Mary, Martha and Lazarus. The procession was not a mighty one with kings, chariots and booty. None of the fan-fare of a great worldly leader. But the real King of Kings riding on an absurd little donkey.

As the procession starts its journey, the crowd begins to increase. From every side people join the crowd because they were enraptured by the Passover. The crowd was merry and soon lyrical outbursts are heard: "Blessed is the King that cometh in the name of the Lord; peace on earth and glory in the highest." The atmosphere is infectious and moving. The religious leaders—Scribes and Pharisees, look horrified and frightened. They are afraid for their position and ask Christ to rebuke this spontaneous celebration. Instantly our Lord replies: "I tell you that if these shall hold their peace, the stones will cry out." This is a moment that destiny has arranged and nothing can prevent it. However, these religious leaders knew that this was something that had to be stopped and took steps to have Christ executed. Jesus had to flee for His life. From this event Christ went to keep the Passover with His chosen workers, the Disciples. During the keeping of the Passover, Judas deserted Christ and the Disciples.

Jesus left the Passover to pray in the Garden for strength to complete His mission. Jesus saw the events of the following days and knew how much depended on His being faithful to this tremendous task. So he prayed in the garden with these things on His mind. He saw far more than Jerusalem. He saw the murderer of Cain. He heard Cain's selfish question: "Am I my brother's keeper?" He saw Esau selling his birthright for a mess of pottage. He saw the great oppression of Egypt. He saw the sin of David. He saw the evil of Hebrew kings. He saw the fall of Samson. He saw the endless deterioration of human society. He saw Judas. He saw Calvary. He saw you. He saw the future generations. He saw the supreme tragedy of all times and ages: Men and nations who know not the things which belong to peace. This feeling and insight is what led Christ to say "Thy will be done and not mine."

We see Christ led from the garden to stand trial for His life for no crime at all. He was only being true to His mission of freeing mankind from the yoke of sin. The trial was nothing but a sham and they led Christ from the court to a place called Calvary. Here stood a cross. Jesus was placed on that cross and crucified. His death was not a debt He must pay to human society, but rather He was dying in our place. People mocked and made all manner of fun at Christ when He was on the cross. He could have avoided this suffering and shame, but he was faithful even unto death.

Now while some laughed and jeered, others were sad, dejected and greatly disappointed. They could not understand what was happening, nor did they realize the necessity of this suffering. Our Scripture lesson gave us a picture of how the Disciples reacted to Christ's death. They walked along the road and a stranger joined their mist. He unfolded to them the necessity of the death of Christ. He clarified the story of Mary's seeing the angel at the empty tomb. He was not there because He had risen. Then Christ appeared to her confirming the fact that He had risen from the dead. He spoke to Mary and said only one word—"Mary." She fell at His feet and acknowledged Him as the resurrected and living Lord. She called Him "Master." Then she ran to tell the others of the group who were sad and defeated, that the Lord had risen. He is not dead, but alive. She had seen Him with her own eyes. Christ then appeared to the Disciples and they, too, took on new life and courage to go ahead with the task of proclaiming God's love, mercy and forgiveness to all mankind.

know that we shall be like him." We know something has happened to the Disciples when their hopes and ambitions are so completely changed. They have discovered the fact that Christ is alive and God has imparted to the Disciples the love that sustained Christ. This same love will enable his followers to continue the task that Christ began.

If Christ Assures Us That We, Too, Can Triumph Over The Things Which Oppose God.

Christ offers us today the same redeeming hand of fellowship. The saviour starts with you, the real you. The moral madness of yesterday is not important; The rebellion and backsliding, the blindness and weakness of yesterday does not matter. Only faith and repentance are required to become members of the great family of God Christ entered Jerusalem in triumph. He wants to enter you so that you can enter the holy of holies in triumph because of what He has done. Salvation begins with the individual in a mighty encounter between God in Christ, and man in the rags of sin and evil. Christ stands ready and anxious to enter your heart and give you the victory over sin just as He has millions of others down through the ages. This will not be an easy matter because we are stubborn and rebellious. Nevertheless, God has a way of breaking through this pseudo wall we erect between God and ourselves, and give us the assurance that we are Christ's. God stands ready to enter families which are loveless and make them loveable! He will give peace, joy and love. Never in the history of mankind

Board Prefers 20-Year Bonds

W. E. Easterling, secretary of the Local Government Commission, has recommended a 20-year bond issue for the Kings Mountain school district's new high school, but the board of education prefers a shorter term issue. It is possible school officials, including the board of education's attorney J. R. Davis, will confer with Mr. Easterling on Friday and, if not, in the near future. Superintendent of Schools B. N. Barnes commented, "The board of education prefers a shorter term, which would save money in interest costs, unless there are special reasons of which the board is not aware."

He said that County Auditor Max Hamrick is projecting a retirement schedule of not more than 20 years.

"Of course," Mr. Barnes added, "the board does not want a retirement schedule which would require more than the present 40 cents per \$100 tax valuation which is being assessed now and was indicated before the bonds were voted."

In forwarding the 24-year schedule, Mr. Easterling suggested that the Kings Mountain district might require more bond funds prior to retirement of the \$1.1 million issue soon to be sold.

Agriculture in Action

Selected to represent North Carolina's 4-H'ers were Larry B. Hancock, 17, of Rt. 1, Seagrove; and Miss Annette Fairless, 16, of Rt. 1, Colerain. The State's FHA envoy will be Miss Carroll Mode, 17, of Franklinton. Tarheel's Girl Scouts will be represented by Miss Nancy Searcy, 17, of Rt. 1, Valdes.

Applicants for the expense-paid Youthpower trip are outstanding high school juniors who have completed special food and nutrition projects through their youth organizations. One of the 1964 delegates planned, prepared and served 137 meals to her

family. Another took a survey in two counties to determine the percentage of families consuming the recommended daily amount of milk. The 1964 delegates hold honors ranging from spelling champ to Eagle Scout, and have all shown themselves to be leaders in school and community.

Upon their return from the Congress, these emissaries for proper diet will pass the Youthpower message along to parents and fellow teens via speeches, newspaper, radio, television and magazines. An estimated 50 million contracts were made by 1963 Congress delegates from across the nation.

The Youthpower Congress is sponsored by the National Food Conference Association — an organization of 65 companies and trade associations representing all segments of the food industry. The program in this State is coordinated by the North Carolina Farm Bureau. Food-related industries in the State pick up the tab for the trip to the Congress.

The Veterans Corner

Here are authoritative answers by the Veterans Administration to questions from former servicemen and their families:

Q—Are widows of veterans eligible for GI home loans?

A—Veterans' widows may be eligible for GI home loans if they meet these requirements: — they must be remarried widows of veterans of World War II or the Korean Conflict who died in service or after separation from service as the result of service-connected disabilities. Entitlement for World War II widows expires July 25, 1967, and for widows of Korean Conflict veterans January 31, 1975.

Q—Why is a so-called "C-Number" necessary in connection with veterans benefits? Shouldn't the veteran's name and proof of service be sufficient?

A—There are many veterans (sometimes hundreds) with the same name and middle initial. Periods of service are often duplicated. A C-number (claim number) positively identifies the record of the individual veteran.

Q—Can a War Orphan who has his entrance into VA educational training delayed or interrupted by military service have his completion date extended?

A—Yes. He has five years from the date of his first release or discharge from military service in which to complete his training.

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NEWSBRIEF: Last year's food needs took only 19 cents of the U. S. consumer's take-home pay, as compared with 23 cents in 1953.

CONGRATULATIONS: To the many who helped to get such a multitude of persons out for the first immunization in the KO-Pollo drive, N. C. Farm Bureau President B. C. Mangum is urging rural families to return to local points for subsequent doses of the live-virus vaccine.

OVERHEARD: Leaf companies may frown on MH-30 tobacco again this year. You can get around this by using MH-15 twice.

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